

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)

August 27, 2010-corrected 11/19/2010

Working sessions: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Council Meeting: 11:00-3:00 p.m.

The Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Rooms 1-2-3; Lincoln, Nebraska

Ruth Miller, chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council at 11:15 a.m. on August 27, 2010 at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Ruth noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Act. Those in attendance made self introductions.

Members present: A.Kathryn Anderson, Sarah Briggs, Maya Chilese, Pam Dobrovolny, Eric Dunning, Carol Fichter, Laura Good Buffalo, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, Eleanor Kirkland, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Susan McWilliams, Michelle Merrill, Julie Middendorf, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Carrie Rasmussen, Roger Reikofski, Deb Ross, Deanna Schulze, Janet Staehr, Lisa Suckstorf, Carey Winkler, Linda Zinke.

Members absent: Amy Bornemeier, Heather Gill, Cheryl Hammond, Sara Johnson, Nancy Montgomery, Stephanie Rau, Todd Reckling, Joyce Thomas.

Also in attendance: *ECICC Staff:* Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary; *Technical Assistants:* National Child Care Information Center–Rae Anderson; Head Start State-based Training and Technical Assistance–Heather Fox; ICF-International–Mary Finney-Afrank; PTI-Nebraska–Connie Shockley; Munroe Meyer Institute –Mark Smith; Nebraska Children and Families Foundation–Beaky Veak; NDHHS–Lynne Brehm, Paula Eurek, Shirley Pickens-White; NDE–Sue Bainter, Jan Thelen; *Presenters:* Paula Southworth, Katie Bohn, Erin Phillips; *Guests:* Mary Phillips, parent; Jen Hernandez, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

The Family Leadership Team, the Gaps and Barriers Committee, the Legislative and the Communications Committee met in working sessions beginning at 8:00 a.m. before the 11:15 a.m. opening of the regular Council meeting. [Note: The Early Childhood Systems Team had held meetings outside of regular Council meeting time.]

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Opening–Business:

i. Approval of minutes

- * Motion, Laura Good Buffalo; seconded, Deb Ross: To approve the ECICC minutes of May 14, 2010, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.
- * Motion, Eric Dunning; seconded, Roger Reikofski: To approve the ECICC minutes of July 12, 2010, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. There was no discussion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

ii. Public Notice

The Council discussed options for public notice of ECICC meetings.

- * Motion, Eric Dunning; seconded, Carey Winkler: To provide public notice of ECICC meetings on the ECICC website (<http://www.education.ne.gov/ecicc/>) and on the Nebraska State Calendar (<http://www.nebraska.gov/calendar/index.cgi>). The motion passed 24-0 by roll call vote; there was 1 abstention:

Voting Yes: A.Kathryn Anderson, Sarah Briggs, Maya Chilese, Eric Dunning, Carol Fichter, Laura Good Buffalo, Jane Happe, Melody Hobson, Eleanor Kirkland, Diane Lewis, Carol McClain, Susan McWilliams, Michelle Merrill, Julie Middendorf, Ruth Miller, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Carrie Rasmussen, Roger Reikofski, Deb Ross, Deanna Schulze, Janet Staehr, Lisa Suckstorf, Carey Winkler, Linda Zinke. *Absention:* Pam Dobrovolny.

iii. Recommendation for ECICC Chairperson

Terry Rohren reviewed the process to nominate a member of the Council as a recommendation to the Governor for the next chairperson of the ECICC. Heather Gill was the sole nominee submitted during the nomination process conducted prior to the ECICC meeting. Heather was not able to be present at the meeting, so Terry provided a brief overview of Heather's background and qualifications for the position.

Council members voted by secret ballot to recommend to the Governor that Heather Gill be appointed as the next chairperson of the ECICC.

* Twenty-five ballots were cast; twenty-five members agreed with the recommendation.

iv. Membership

The terms of Council members are ending on September 30, 2010; they are either not eligible for another term or have requested not to be reappointed. Exiting members and their representation categories are: (*parent*= parent of child with disabilities*)

Kathy Anderson--physician	Ruth Miller--service provider-ESU
Laura Good Buffalo--parent*	Nancy Montgomery--child care provider-center
Sara Johnson--parent*	Nancy Rasmussen--schools-early childhood
Susan McWilliams--higher education	Janet Staehr--service provider-public health
Michele Merrill--parent	Carey Winkler--parent*

Terry thanked the members for their contributions to the Council and especially noted the service of Ruth Miller as chair. Terry asked for names of persons who might be willing to serve in these vacant categories. Terry will contact the individuals about submitting an application to the Governor's Office and also will forward the names to the Governor's Office to consider for appointment to the ECICC.

v. State Advisory Council grant application

Eleanor Kirkland expressed appreciation for members' attendance at the interim ECICC meeting on July 12, which was held for the purpose of a public hearing prior to submission of State Advisory Council grant application. Eleanor informed the Council on the status of the application--the revisions needed after preliminary federal review, the revised budget and the clarifications requested from the federal office. The last word on the status was favorable. A Grant award notice should be received in the next couple of weeks. The grant will start either September 1 or October 1.

Eleanor provided an overview of the legislation requiring formation of a state advisory council to systematically look at state issues in early childhood. The Governor designated ECICC as that body. The grant application addresses the priorities identified by ECICC: a unified data system and school readiness. Eleanor thanked the grant writing team and the Early Childhood Systems Team. Eleanor noted the interest from the Governor's Office and expects to provide strategic feedback through the process.

2. Reports from Working Sessions

a. Family Leadership Team

Carey Winkler reviewed the topics discussed in the meeting of the Family Leadership Team:

- A Parent Law Conference is planned for November 5- 6, 2010 in Omaha. Scholarships are available to support parents' attendance.
- Boys Town is piloting a program to support parent-peer mentors in physicians' offices. The role of the mentor will be to facilitate communication between parents and the medical team.

- The DEC 2010 Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 14-17. Funding to support parents' attendance is available.
- Leisha Suckstorf presented information and resources from the 2010 Early Childhood Summit in Washington DC, which she attended as an ECICC parent representative.
- The team discussed the lack of a system in the state for parents of children with disabilities to connect with other parents. Efforts have been made to provide materials but distribution of the materials is weak. The group discussed strategies to identify and connect these parents. They also want to identify a funding source for child care so parents can attend meetings and conferences specific to their situations.

b. Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)

Carol Fichter provided highlights of the GBC meeting:

- The committee reviewed the purpose of the GBC and discussed how to get issues from the field, particularly information from Planning Region Teams (PRT) and communication strategies. Carol McClain will ask the Co-Leads to review existing documents (e.g., PRT annual reports) and compile information that might be used by the committee.
- The committee received an update on new regulations for kindergarten.
- Part C updates included
 - an announcement that OSEP (federal Office of Special Education Programs) rated determination for Nebraska's Part C Annual Performance Report as acceptable (top rating)
 - anticipation of an OSEP visit to Nebraska in the fall of 2011, which would probably include interviews with ECICC members; and,
 - planning for the second year of ARRA funding.
- The GBC approved making a recommendation to the Council to consider an agenda item regarding a survey of provider use of the child care subsidy for the next meeting to make members more informed about the issues related to the child care subsidy.

c. Legislative and Communications Committee (LCC)

Jane Happe provided an overview of items discussed by the LCC:

- In light of the state budget situation, the group talked about what should be communicated regarding early childhood issues.
- A timeline and outline for the 2010 Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood was considered. The group discussed how to structure the report and ways to best show entities working together toward priorities. They discussed the possibilities for wide distribution of a 3-4 page executive summary of the report.
- Updates in legislation included proposed federal changes; costs of early care and education; and the best way to present information about cost of care to families and percentage of income and how quality child care impacts an effective workforce. More information can be found in the document "Protect Investments in Early Childhood" from the Nebraska Childhood and Families Foundation (NCFF), which can be accessed at:
<http://www.advancingearlychildhood.org/message/tools.html>.

d. Early Childhood Systems Team (ECST)

Eleanor Kirkland, co-chair of the ECST with Amy (Pair) Bornemeier, acknowledged Becky Veak and her work with logistical support for the ECST. Since the last meeting, the group has been working exclusively on the State Advisory Council grant application. They have a retreat planned for October 1. A conference call is scheduled for August 31 to provide input for the 5-year Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) grant. Eleanor will send the date and time of the call to members. Eleanor explained the makeup and representation on the ECST in response to a question from Tammy Mittelstaedt. Eleanor emphasized that reporting to and seeking input from the ECICC will be a constant factor in ECST work.

3. Family Story

During the working lunch period, Erin Phillips presented her story. Erin is the young adult daughter of former ECICC member, Mary Phillips. Erin used a PowerPoint slide show that she had created to explain her disabilities and her progress from beginning early intervention at 15 months of age, through her education, to her employment through VOICE (Vocational Opportunity in Community Experience). Erin closed with her dreams: to own a horse, to live independently, to have people see her as herself, and to have a great life.

4. Public Comment:

Following the lunch period, Ruth Miller called for public comment. There was none.

5. New website: Advancing Early Childhood Policy

Becky Veak and Jen Hernandez presented an overview of the new website, Advancing Early Childhood Policy, which was recently developed by the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. The purpose of the website is to inform policy makers and to unify the message to state senators and their staff. In their presentation, Becky and Jen linked directly to the website and provided a walk-through of the information that is available, such as information by legislative district, science and research pages, and sections on the Need, the Message and the Return. NCFE is also developing a “why not to cut early childhood” piece that is targeted for the January 2011 legislative session. The website address is: <http://www.advancingearlychildhood.org/>

6. Home Visitation Needs Assessment

Paula Eurek, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), provided an update on actions regarding the federal home visitation program since the last ECICC meeting. She reviewed the requirement for the needs assessment and distributed a Nebraska map of counties that focuses on the concentration of need in those counties. The last part of the needs assessment will be to talk with the communities work with existing program or create new ones. Paula noted that the federal office sees this as only a “first pass” at a needs assessment. As DHHS continues to analyze data they will continue to make adjustments. Paula provided a handout of a screenshot of the website about the needs assessment and information about an DHHS August 16 conference call and video conference. The web address is: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/LifespanHealth/Home-Visiting-Needs-Assessment.htm>

7. Overview of Homeless Education

Roger Reikofski, Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) used a PowerPoint slide show to present an overview of NDE’s Homeless Education Program. The purpose of the program is to ensure that children who are homeless have the same opportunities for success in school that non-homeless children have. The program stems from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, which outlines the rights of homeless children and their families and responsibilities of the state to provide “free and appropriate public education.” Roger described Nebraska’s program, its funding, and the regulations that needed to be changed to conform to the law. Each district that receives federal funds is required to have a homeless liaison and must comply with other responsibilities outlined in the law. Roger briefly covered major barriers for students in homeless situations and also indicators of homelessness. NDE has small grants that are available to districts to support homeless education. Roger invited meeting participants to contact him with questions, comments, and complaints at: roger.reikofski@nebraska.gov.

8. Survey results on inclusive practices and Planning Region Teams

Paula Southworth (Hastings, Nebraska) presented the results of a project she did during her internship with NDE as part of her Master’s degree program at UNL. The project was to develop and conduct a survey of Planning Region Teams (PRTs) in Nebraska. Paula explained her interest in PRTs and training to focus on child care and inclusive practices, which is also one of the priorities of NDE’s Special Education Office. Paula described the development and method of the survey that was sent

to PRT chairs and co-chairs; 29 surveys were sent, 10 were returned. Paula provided a handout summarizing the results of the survey that included feedback on the use of e-learning for training purposes.

9. Overview of DHHS Family Helpline

Representatives from the Family Helpline (*corrected 11/19/2010*) briefly described the Family Helpline and gave a background about related legislation, regional service structure, and agency partnerships. The Helpline is open 24 hours every day of the year. The system provides a single point of contact for resources and offers bi-lingual support. It has been in operation for eight and one-half months and has handled over 2000 calls. Callers are screened for eligibility and referrals to the Family Navigator system. The website address is: <http://www.nebraskafamilyhelpline.ne.gov/>

10. Agenda items the November meeting

- UNMC survey about child care serving children with special needs (suggested by GBC)
- 2010 Report to the Governor—preliminary draft, if possible
- New members

Before adjournment, Terry Rohren recognized outgoing chair, Ruth Miller, for her work and grace in leading the ECICC. Ruth was presented with a framed picture of children that was signed by ECICC members. Ruth thanked Terry for her support and gave some food for thought by listing obsolete technologies familiar to members but unknown to young parents. As Ruth thanked the Council for their continuing work, she reminded everyone that the challenges of families with young children today may be different from the challenges we experienced.

With no other items to be discussed, the motion to adjourn was called for.

- * Motion by Eric Dunning, seconded by Roger Reikofski: To adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Council adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Next meeting: November 19, 2010, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; working groups to meet prior to 11:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by
Susan Dahm, ECICC Secretary

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ Ballot regarding Recommendation for Chairperson of ECICC
- ✓ ECICC Updates, August 27, 2010
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, July 26, 2010
- ✓ Status Report: Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office, August 2010
- ✓ Charter: ECICC Early Childhood Systems Team; approved May 14, 2010
- ✓ 2010 Strategic Report to the Governor on the Status of Early Childhood:
 - Revised timeline for drafting
 - Proposed outline
 - What is to be included. . .
- ✓ Web screen snapshot: Home Visiting Needs Assessment (NDHHS)
- ✓ Map: Level 1: Nebraska Counties at Risk (NDHHS)
- ✓ Article: Senate subcommittee increases funding for child care and early education
- ✓ Article: Developing America's potential—an agenda for affordable, high-quality child care
- ✓ Article: parent and the high Cost of Child Care: 2010 Update (NACCRRA: National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies)
- ✓ Web screen snapshot: Advancing Early Childhood Policy
- ✓ Result Summary (P. Southworth survey)
- ✓ Materials packet: Homeless Education (Roger Reikofski)
- ✓ PowerPoint: Nebraska Family Helpline (NDHHS)